



CALPEEK

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HORCHER RECALL UPDATE: TWO WEEKS TO GO.

Editor's note: This recall election set for May 16th is by almost all accounts going to be an uphill fight all the way for maverick Assemblyman Paul Horcher of Diamond Bar. Here is a brief update & analysis...

...Publicly, Demos led by Speaker Willie Brown are still confident they can keep Horcher from being recalled. But that *feeling of optimism isn't* shared by all Demos. There are some who are more realistic and know that it will take a massive effort to keep Horcher in his 60th A.D. job. Mail is dropping regularly for Horcher and phone banks have been up and running for some time. And just before May 16th, hotel rooms in the 60th A.D. will be full of Horcher volunteers. But this may not be enough...

...Recent GOP polling data suggests the YES on Recall side may have this recall locked up. Data suggests those favoring the recall may be up by as much as 30 points. For this reason, Republicans are feeling more confident. This is based in part on their field efforts in the district, including a recent walk through of 230 of the 60th A.D.'s 300 precincts; and their projection that they have now generated 20,000-plus absentee voter ballot requests. The L.A. Co. Registrar reports a total of 37,300 AV ballot requests and 11,200 ballots voted & returned, as of Apr. 26th...

...On the **money front**, however, Horcher appears to be in good shape. As of Apr. 1st, two committees for Horcher reported a combined \$479,000 raised, with \$372,000 spent and cash-on-hand of more than \$142,000. By the time everything is added up, it is estimated pro-Horcher forces may spend upwards of \$1.2 million. The official Horcher Recall Cmt. has spent about \$217,000 and has c-o-h of \$3,700...

...As for the two major GOPers who want to replace

Horcher should the recall succeed, Diamond Bar Councilman Gary Miller, with his *deep pockets*, loaned his campaign \$300,000. As of Apr. 1st, Miller still had \$288,310 c-o-h. Community college trustee Barbara Stone was trailing badly, with only \$56,409 raised and \$18,000 c-o-h. Neutral observers say that unless Stone closes the fundraising gap, she won't be able to compete with Miller in the closing week of the campaign...

...FYI: a recall against Demo Assemblyman Mike Machado of Linden organized by former Assemblyman and now BoE member Dean Andal(R) appears more serious than insiders had previously thought. Question: will resources that were originally earmarked for Horcher now be shifted to Machado??? Stay tuned...

FULL METAL JACKET: REPEAL OF ASSAULT GUN BAN ON HOLD. OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING CITED.

Editor's note: Presidential politics and just about everything else has been put on hold because of the destruction of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City by accused bomber Timothy McVeigh. Because of the bombing and the huge loss of life, it now appears unlikely that the GOP controlled Congress will move ahead anytime soon with legislation to repeal the **assault weapons ban** that was part of the 1994 crime bill (now law). Here's CALPEEK's report & analysis...

...Politically, it would be bad PR for Republicans to attempt to repeal U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's amendment to the crime bill, which *supposedly* bans 19 types of semi-automatic assault weapons. The reason is obvious and has shown up on TV every day since shortly after 9 a.m. (CDT) Apr. 19th. Whether fairly or unfairly, McVeigh has been linked to paramilitary activities and to the *patriot/militia movement*. TV reports have portrayed the militia as heavily armed individuals who say they both hate and fear the U.S. Government. The 2nd Amendment is very important to these folks and

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they are outspoken in their opposition to the assault weapons ban...

...The reason CALPEEK used the word *supposedly* with regard to the assault gun ban is because there is good evidence that the ban is really more symbolic than actual. That's what the NRA says and that's what some independent sources not connected to the gun lobby also say...

...Example. the Colt AR-15 (similar to the rifle used by the U.S. Army) is still being made and sold today, even through the new law was supposed to ban it. How did this happen? Colt has changed the name (it's now called the Sporter) and has made some modifications (removed the bayonet mount & flash suppressor) to comply with the law. But what is sold in today's gun store is still basically an AR-15. The assault weapon used in the S.F. law office massacre on July 1, 1993, was a TEC-DC9. Like Colt, the manufacturer of this weapon has made some alterations to comply with the law and has changed the name: it's now AB-10 (AB means *after ban*). Ditto the AK-47, which now is sold under the name of MAK-90...

...DiFi's amendment also bans the manufacturing of detachable magazines that hold more than 10 bullets. Guess what? Between the time that the final crime bill passed and the time that Pres. Bill Clinton actually signed the bill into law, there was a delay of 2 weeks. During that time the U.S. arms industry worked around the clock to not only produce more assault weapons, but also to make large capacity clips. Anything that was in the supply pipeline prior to the President's signing of the crime bill was and is still legal. Bottomline: there are still lots of pre-ban assault weapon and large capacity magazines on the market. And according to almost all sources the only way to ban assault weapons is to outlaw the entire class of semi-automatic rifles & shotguns. Legit hunters would go nuts and there's no way this would ever happen...

...So, if the law is so mild and hasn't really stopped the sale of assault weapons, why is the NRA busting its butt and using political silver bullets to get the GOP controlled Congress to repeal the assault weapons ban? **Good question**. The NRA has not supplied an answer, but others speculate that the repeal is a PR thing. The NRA's image was badly mauled last year by not only

the crime bill, but also by the Brady waiting period law. Yes, they *recouped* those losses by knocking Demos out of control of Congress, but the public hasn't heard about this. So repeal is one way to regain some of that lost prestige. Stay tuned...

S.F. MAYOR'S RACE: NEW SURVEY DATA RELEASED.

Editor's note: A new poll on the upcoming mayor's race was released in the Apr. 24th edition of the S.F. Chronicle, sample size 501 registered voters, taken by pollster David Binder between Apr. 17-18. Here's a brief update...

...The new S.F. Chron poll is the first publicly released survey that matches all 5 of the most frequently mentioned candidates: incumbent Mayor Frank Jordan, Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, S.F. Co. Supes Angela Alioto & Terence Hallinan, and former Asst. HUD Sec. Roberta Achtenberg. In a 5-way primary battle, here's the way it breaks out:

Jordan	32%
Brown	28%
Achtenberg	14%
Alioto	10%
Hallinan	5%
Undecided	11%

...CALPEEK sources are now fairly confident that Hallinan is going to drop out of the mayor's race to instead challenge incumbent S.F. DA Arlo Smith...

...In a runoff between Brown and Jordan, the new S.F. Chron poll shows Brown at 49.2% and Jordan at 39.7%. Jordan's job performance numbers show 44% approve and 47% disapprove, with the rest undecided. Of interest too are how *gays* may vote. Achtenberg, who is a lesbian, had counted on overwhelming support from the gay community. But according to this Binder poll, she only gets 36.5%, compared to 31.7% for Brown and 15% for Jordan. Many sources think Achtenberg needs at least 50-60% of the gay vote to be a viable candidate...

...FYI: at Willie Brown's big dinner, the Speaker again hinted that he's looking seriously at the mayor's race. Sources say Brown has already asked Henry Berman, a titan in S.F.'s Jewish community, and The Rev. Cecil Williams, to co-chair his campaign. Stay tuned...

ORANGE CO. TAX PLAN UNDER MAJOR ASSAULT.

Editor's note: Those who favor the 1/2 cent sales tax hike to help bail Orange Co. out of its fiscal mess caused by the collapse of its \$1 billion-plus investment pool knew it wouldn't be easy selling this tax hike to voters. Now there is ***well organized and funded*** opposition to Measure R, which will appear on a June 27th special election ballot. Here is our brief update...

...Although there is still much in the way of grassroots opposition to Measure R, there are now **two** official opposition committees battling the YES forces. One is called Californians Against Tax Increases --- a project of Ted Costa's People's Advocate, Inc., based in Sacto, with consultant John Stoos also aboard. Costa's group claims 40,000 members in Orange Co. A second committee is called Citizens Against Tax Increases. Consultant Mark Thompson is managing this organization, which claims backing from many of the county's better known GOP elected officials. This past week Costa's group hit voters with a 4-page letter not only urging a NO vote, but also asking for campaign contributions. While both opposition groups are expected to have money, they undoubtedly will be outspent by the YES forces, who combined may spend close to \$2 million...

...FYI: YES on R Chair Brad Gates has expanded his support cmt. and now lists 18 co-chairs. Some of the co-chairs include Orange Co. CEO Bill Popejoy; LWV president Connie Haddad, O.C. Employee Assn. president Frank Eley, BIA president Monica Florian, CTA president Del Webber, O.C. Business Council Pres. Todd Nicholson, Exec. VP Reed Royalty of the O.C. Taxpayers Assn. and former O.C. Demo Party chairs Richard O'Neill & Howard Alder. Stay tuned...

CARD CLUB MADNESS: POMONA POKER MEASURE LOSES; PICO RIVERA ELECTION IS SET FOR JUNE 6.

Editor's note: Lots of action on the card club front. Here's a brief report...

...Voters in Pomona narrowly rejected Measure A by 309 votes on April 18 (5,365 to 5,056) to permit two card clubs to operate in the city and also narrowly approved Measure B by 42 votes to prohibit card clubs. Thus it would appear that the anti-card club side came out a big winner. But card club backers have requested a recount and may take their case to court in an attempt to throw out the results of Measure B. If

Measure B is overturned, then the council would still have the power to license card clubs and might try again. Strumwasser & Woocher are handling the legal chores for opponents of B (Citizens for Pomona Revitalization)...

...In Pico Rivera, pro & con sides are gearing up for ***Round 2*** in the form of Prop. B on the city's June 6th ballot. This is the second time Pico Rivera has voted on a card club measure, the first one losing narrowly a few years ago. Proponents go by the name of Vote YES on B to Play Bingo & Cards. The bingo profits would be pumped back into community projects, schools, etc., but the card club tax revenues, estimated at \$6 million per year, would go to the city. Consultant Alma Fitch is working for the YES side, while it is anticipated that consultant Jerry Westlund will be working the no side, as he did in Pomona. Sources who have watched these battles say it will be an ***uphill fight*** for the YES side once again. And some sources also think L.A. Co. Sup. Gloria Molina will again wade in on the NO side, as will UNO, the United Neighborhood Organization, who worked against similar club proposals in So. El Monte and Baldwin Park...

...FYI: the Compton city council has approved a deal to create the county's first hotel-card casino. Hollywood Park will lease the empty 288-room Compton Ramada for 50 years and will buy the next door convention center for \$2 million. Hollywood Park will in turn lease part of the complex to Compton Entertainment, Inc. The deal should bring the city \$2.5 million in annual tax revenues. Some sources think opponents will find a way to block the deal. Stay tuned...

WELFARE REFORM CONF. IN SACRAMENTO MAY 5.

Welfare Reform: Facts, Myths & Consequences, is the title of a day-long conference, 8:30 a.m. to 4:50 p.m., May 5, State Capitol, Sacramento. Sponsored by University Extension, Dept. of Econ. & Inst. of Govt. Affairs at UC Davis. For info ☎ (916)757-8777...

CBIA TO SPONSOR '95 MIDYEAR REAL ESTATE CONF.

The CA Building Industry Assn. and UC Berkeley's Center for Real Estate & Urban Economics, will host an all-day conference May 9, S.F. Hilton Hotel. For info ☎ 1-800 464-5436...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: NO FAULT MEASURE HAS TO START AGAIN; TEAM HIRED FOR ATTORNEYS.

Editor's note: a brief update on the war between the Consumer Attorneys of Calif. vs. the Alliance to Revitalize Calif...

...Consumer Attorneys of Calif. (that's the new name for the CA Trial Lawyers Assn.) went to court and forced the proponents of a no-fault auto insurance initiative to have portions of its initiative rewritten. So "**No Fault Motor Vehicle Insurance. Tort Liability. Initiative Statute**" has a new deadline --- Sept. 11, 1995 instead of July 24th. Politically, it was a major setback for the no-fault side because 170,000 signatures were thrown out by this CAC court win. And it cost the no-fault team about \$119,000, according to one account in the S.F. Recorder (legal newspaper)...

...In the meantime, CAC has hired a team of political consultants to fight the no-fault measure and two other planned initiatives put forth by the Alliance to Revitalize Calif. Working on a temporary contract are Richie Ross, Jack Walsh (from Boston), Bill Carrick, the polling firm of Fairbank Maslin Maullin and petition manager Kelly Kimball. And yes, sources confirm that the CAC has submitted a proposal to the AG's office for title & summary that will combat some or all of the initiatives put in place by the Alliance. Or as one source told CALPEEK, "This is war.". Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: ADDING MORE NAMES TO THE MIX.

Editor's note: Here's another update on who's in and who's out for House & Legislative races in 1996...

☒ **64th A.D.** - GOP Assemblyman Ted Weggeland of Riverside has announced that he will **not** seek reelection next year. Weggeland wants to devote more time to his family and start a new career in marketing/sales. And according to sources, Weggeland will play a key role in Gov. Wilson's presidential campaign. As for a replacement, several names have surfaced. They include: Cororna Councilman Jeff Bennett, Riverside Councilman Alex Clifford and legislative staffer Vern Lauritzen, who works for Assemblyman Bruce Thompson...

☒ **38th C.D.** - Looks like popular 2-term U.S. Rep. Steve Horn (R-Long Beach) will have a serious primary challenge from Rick Dykema, who is U.S. Rep. Dana

Rohrabacher's legislative director. Dykema shares Rohrabacher's hardline conservative views, whereas Horn is a GOP moderate. FYI: Dykema's campaign button reads: "Rick Is Right."...

☒ **32nd A.D.** - With Assemblyman Trice Harvey (R-Bakersfield) taking aim at U.S. Rep. Cal Dooley (D-Visalia), sources in Kern Co. believe former County Sup. Pauline Larwood (R) will take on current County Sup. Roy Ashburn (R) for Harvey's 32nd A.D. No Demo names have surfaced --- so far...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- A sad note: Ralph Flynn, exec. director of the CTA since 1976, died Apr. 22 of a heart attack. He was 60. R.I.P...

- Long time aide & state director for U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Hadley Roff, will resign as of May 1st. Political burn out. DiFi's new state director will be current communications director Bill Chandler, who moves from DC to S.F. And former Deputy Cmp. Mgr. Susan Kennedy moves to DC to become DiFi's press secretary...

- The CA League of Conservation Voters has named Sarah M. Rose as its new political director. Rose has a background in campaign management...

- Joanne Stabler, who was AG Dan Lungren's campaign director in '94, has joined the Sacto office of Pacific/West Communications Group. FYI: Lungren has hired P/WCG on a full time basis for strategic counsel in fundraising, database development, research and communications...

- Fred Guido has been named by L.A. Co. Sup. Deane Dana to the L.A. Co. Planning Commission. Guido succeeds the late Robert Ryan, who passed away in February...

- N. Eugene Hill, a sr. asst. AG for the past 12 years, has joined the Sacto-law office of Olson, Hagel, Fong, et al. Hill, 63, had been with the AG's office for 33 years. He will become Of Counsel to the Olson, Hagel law firm...